

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 125

20p

SABER THE SLAYER

HE FACED FEARSOME FOES AND THEIR AWESOME
ARMOURY OF GROTESQUE WAR MACHINES.

STARBLAZER


Galactic Command governed and policed the vast reaches of inhabited space. Agents, as patrolmen were called, found themselves dealing with petty theft or galactic warfare, depending on which sector they were in. Patrols lasted months and orders were microbeamed to the "B" class Scoutships. Each agent had one crew member—OSAP—an On-board Sentient Analysis Partner. But the problem which fell to agent Saber defied all conventional methods of solution. In fact only unconventional methods had a slight chance of success.

SABER THE SLAYER

FAR OUT IN THE ETHER WASTES, AGENT SABER RECEIVED A CALL.

GALACTIC COMMAND TO
THUNDERBOLT, DO YOU READ, OVER?



A black and white comic book illustration. In the center, a man in a futuristic, high-tech suit with a large arrow on the back stands looking down at a city. The city is a dense, futuristic urban landscape with many buildings and a large, curved structure on the right. The man's suit has various mechanical details and a large, stylized arrow pointing downwards on the back. He is holding a device in his right hand. The background shows a bright, hazy sky with some clouds.

WE READ, COMMAND. WHAT
CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

AGENT SABER, YOU ARE
REQUESTED TO RETURN TO BASE
IMMEDIATELY, OVER.

A black and white comic book illustration. It shows a close-up of a futuristic cityscape, focusing on a large, curved structure that resembles a bridge or a large building. The structure has a complex, geometric design with many windows and details. The background shows a bright, hazy sky with some clouds.

WE READ COMMAND,
ON OUR WAY. OUT.

5
WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A RIPPLE ACROSS HER BACK, THE "B" CLASS SCOUTER THUNDERBOLT, SNAPPED INTO FULL ACCELERATION.

VERMICITE POWER RESERVES ARE CHARGED UP, SKIPPER. READY WHEN YOU ARE.

RIGHT OSAP, LET HER HAVE IT — NAVBANK, PUNCH IN CO-ORDINATES FOR HQ. LET'S GO.

WHAT ABOUT THE SMUGGLERS, SKIPPER?

THEY'LL WAIT OSAP. THEY CAN'T ESCAPE FOR EVER.

6
THE SMUGGLERS WERE WATCHING CLOSELY.

SEE, THE COWARDS FLEE, PURSUE, PURSUE,
GET THEM, OBLITERATE THEM. HURRY,
FOOLS.

BUT MAGNIFICENCE, WE CANNOT
CATCH THEM NOW, THEY HAVE THE
FASTER VESSEL.



IMBECILE, COWARD, YOU DARE TO DOUBT MY ORDERS. YOU HAVE
COST ME MY PRIZE, PURSUE YOU FOOL, PURSUE, PURSUE.

THUNDERBOLT'S
SENSORS HAD PICKED
UP THE SMUGGLERS'
CRAFT —

ALIEN, ALIEN. BEARING 176
ON APPROACH COURSE, BUT
NOT CLOSING. SMUGGLERS!
THEY THINK WE'RE MAKING
A RUN FOR IT.

WE CAN'T STOP NOW, OSAP,
BUT WE CAN GIVE THEM A
PARTING SHOT.

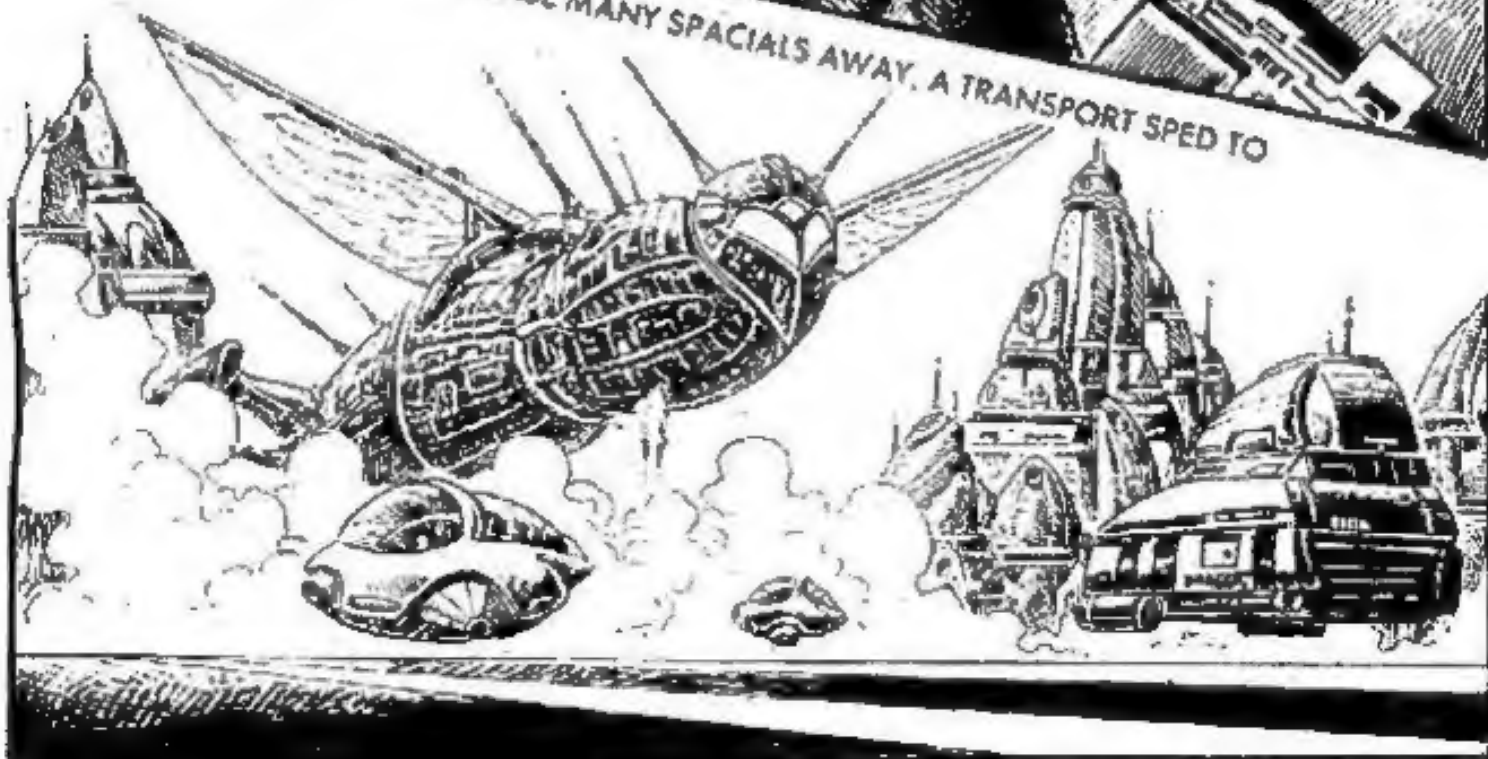
THE THUNDERBOLT'S ONATRON GUNS BURST INTO LIFE

THE DEADLY ELECTRONICALLY
GUIDED PLASMA BOLTS HIT THEIR TARGETS.

ON BOARD THE SMUGGLERS' CRAFT, DEFENCE SHIELDS SHORT-CIRCUITED, SENDING A SHUDDER OF ONATRON ENERGY THROUGH THE SHIP —



AS THUNDERBOLT LANDED AT BASE MANY SPECIALS AWAY, A TRANSPORT SPED TO MEET SABER —





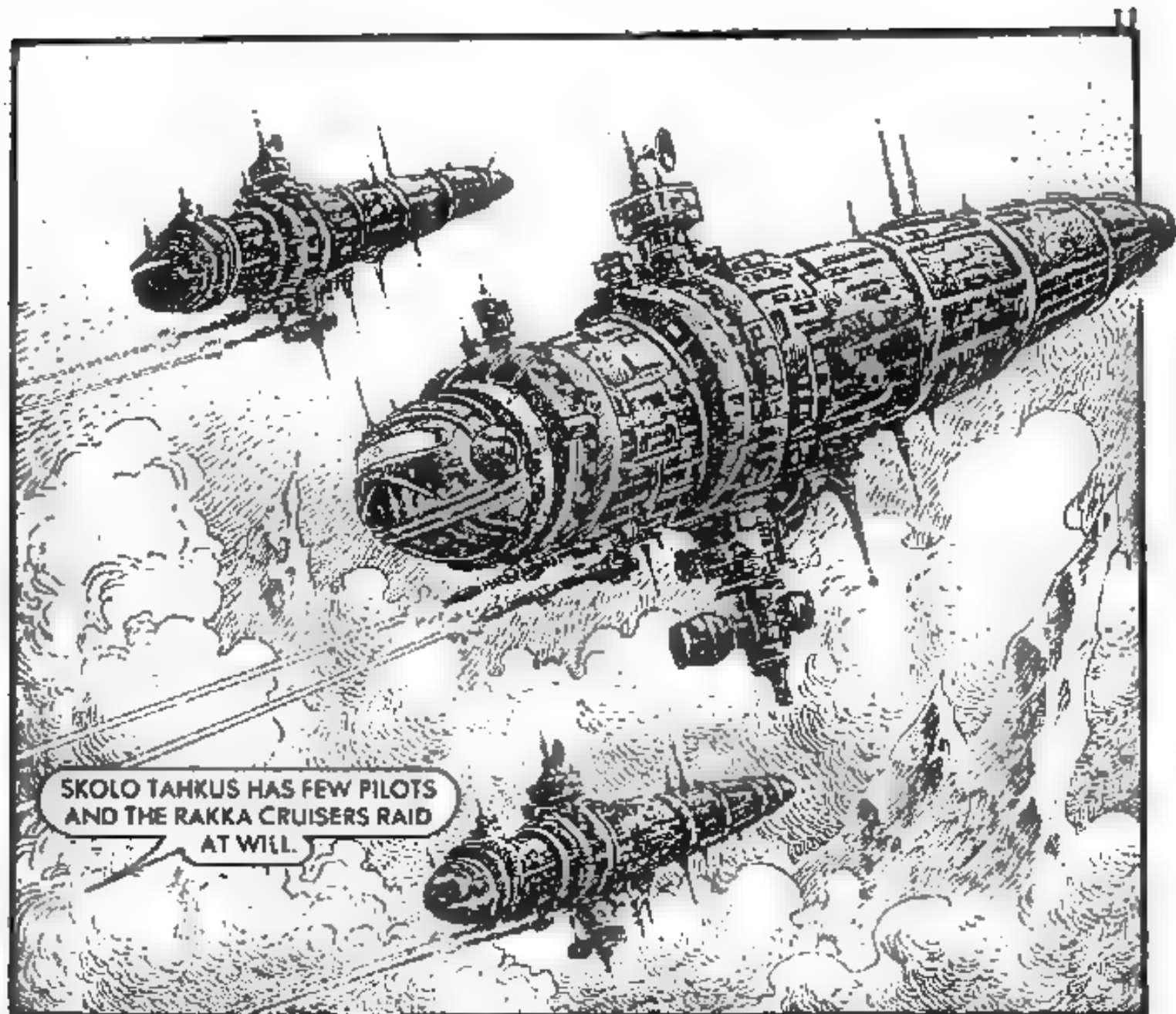
THE TWO ARRIVED





SKOLO TANKUS, LORD OF THE MAKO WARRIORS, HAS BEEN IN TOUGH. IT SEEMS THEY ARE UNDER CONSTANT AND HEAVY ATTACK BY THE RAKKA FORCES FROM THE SAME SOLAR SYSTEM.

MAKO SUPPLIES US WITH PRETANE FUEL, BUT RAKKA CRAFT THREATEN THE SUPPLY LINES. WITHOUT THAT PRETANE OUR SOLAR RADIATION CONVERTERS WOULD NOT FUNCTION. SO, AGENT SABER, STRATEGIC COMMAND HAS DECIDED IT WOULD BE THE LEAST WE COULD DO TO SEND YOU OUT THERE AS AN ADVISOR. HELP THEM DEFEND THEMSELVES AND SET UP A SECURITY SYSTEM ACROSS THEIR PLANET TO PROTECT THEM IN THE FUTURE.



SKOLO TAHKUS HAS FEW PILOTS
AND THE RAKKA CRUISERS RAID
AT WILL.

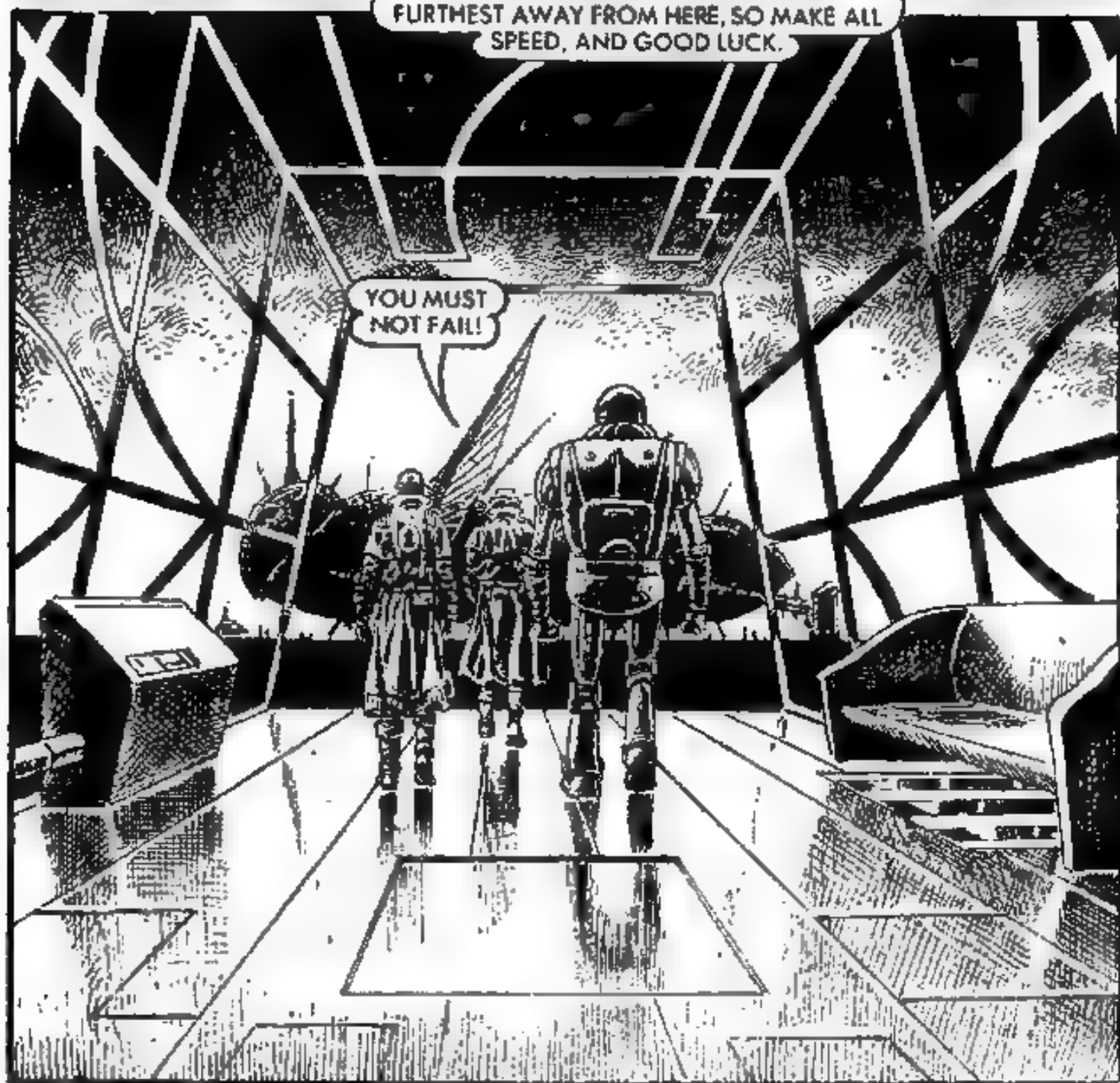
IMMEDIATELY SABER WAS ON HIS WAY AGAIN —



SO YOU APPRECIATE THE
IMPORTANCE OF THIS
TASK.



YOU MUST NOT FAIL!



AS OSAP CHECKED THUNDERBOLT —

WHAT SORT OF SHAPE
ARE WE IN?

A.1 SIR, YOUR ONATRON GUNS ARE HARDLY
DRAINED AND YOU HAVE SUFFICIENT VERMICITE
FUEL PODS FOR TWO YEARS CONTINUOUS
FLIGHT. WILL YOU BE AWAY LONG?

BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT,
AND THANKS A LOT.

WE HOPE.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO MAKO, BUT
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF IT.

ME NEITHER, OSAP! AND I'VE NEVER MET AN
ANDROID WITH A 'NERVOUS' CIRCUIT BEFORE
— I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL MACHINE?

THE THUNDERBOLT SNAPPED SPACEWARDS.

WAITING IN SPACE, CRAFT REPAIRED, WERE THE SMUGGLERS —

THEY COME, THE FOOLS, THEY COME!
PREPARE TO DESTROY THEM. HURRY, THEY
MUST NOT ESCAPE THIS TIME, I SHALL
OBLITERATE THEM.



CO-ORDINATES LOCKED IN FOR MAKO
SKIPPER. READY WHEN YOU ARE.

RIGHT, OSAP, FULL
THRUST NOW.



THE LUCKLESS SMUGGLERS RECEIVED ANOTHER SHOCK AS THE ENERGY DISPLACEMENT FROM THUNDERBOLT ROCKED THE CRAFT —

SPACE VERMIN, BUNGLERS, MUST I BE SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS? I'LL HAVE YOU ALL FLOGGED AND SET ADrift ON THE NEXT ASTEROID, IMBECILES...



UNAWARE OF THE SMUGGLERS' FLIGHT, SABER WAS ENTERING THE FRIDGICELL, WHICH WOULD SUSPEND HIS LIFE CYCLE UNTIL THEY APPROACHED MAKO...

ALL YOURS OSAP. I DON'T WANT TO BE AN OLD MAN WHEN WE GET THERE.



UNDERSTOOD, SKIPPER, IN LESS THAN AN HOUR WE'LL BE CRASHING THE LIGHT BARRIER, I'LL THAW YOU OUT ONCE WE SLOW DOWN AGAIN.

ALTHOUGH THE JOURNEY TOOK ONLY HOURS IN EARTH TIME, ONCE THE LIGHT BARRIER WAS PASSED, EARTH YEARS PASSED IN MINUTES

FORTY SEVEN MINUTES LATER THE THUNDERBOLT DECELERATED —

IT'S KIND OF
COLD IN THERE.

NEARLY THERE, MASTER! I'VE REDUCED
TO LIGHT FACTOR 7.

THE THUNDERBOLT SLOWED AS SHE APPROACHED THE OUTER ATMOSPHERE OF MAKO.

BETTER GET A SIGNAL OFF, OSAP. DON'T
WANT THEM TO THINK WE'RE RAKKAS...

ALIEN, ALIEN. BEARING 245 SECTOR 3.
COLLISION COURSE AND CLOSING.
IMPACT 2 MINUTES, ACTIVATING
ENERGY BARRIERS NOW, WEAPONS ON
STAND BY.



BARRIERS ON MAXIMUM; SECTOR-VIEW
ON VISUAL, HURRY OSAP.

OSAP SWITCHED ON THE TRANSPARENT VISIDECK —

GOT THEM, OSAP?

GOT THEM, SKIPPER, COMING IN FAST,
SECTOR THREE. YOU SHOULD HAVE THEM
ON VISUAL ANY MOMENT.

ALIEN, ALIEN, COLLISION
IMMINENT, REPEAT IMMINENT.



BUT OSAP WAS FIRING THE ONATRON CANNON TO FORCE THE CRAFT OFF —

AS SABER AND OSAP FOUGHT, FAR BELOW THEM...

... AND I, SKOLO TAHKUS, LORD OF THE MAKO
WARRIORS, IN KEEPING WITH THE LAWS OF THE
ANCIENTS HAVE SUMMONED HELP.



A black and white comic panel showing a group of men in a tent. A man in the center, wearing a dark tunic with a diamond pattern and a fur-trimmed hood, is speaking. He has a beard and is looking towards the left. Other men are visible in the background, some looking on with concern. The tent's interior is visible with various items hanging from the ceiling.

FORGIVE ME MY LORD, I THINK THE EARTH
PEOPLE APPROACH. THE RAKKAS ATTACK
THEM — BY YOUR LEAVE WE MUST HELP.

A black and white comic panel showing a man on a horse in the foreground, looking towards a village in the distance. The man has a beard and is wearing a dark tunic. The village is nestled in a valley, with several buildings and a church spire visible. The background shows a hilly landscape with some trees and a cloudy sky.

WHAT STRENGTH MAN,
DO WE KNOW?

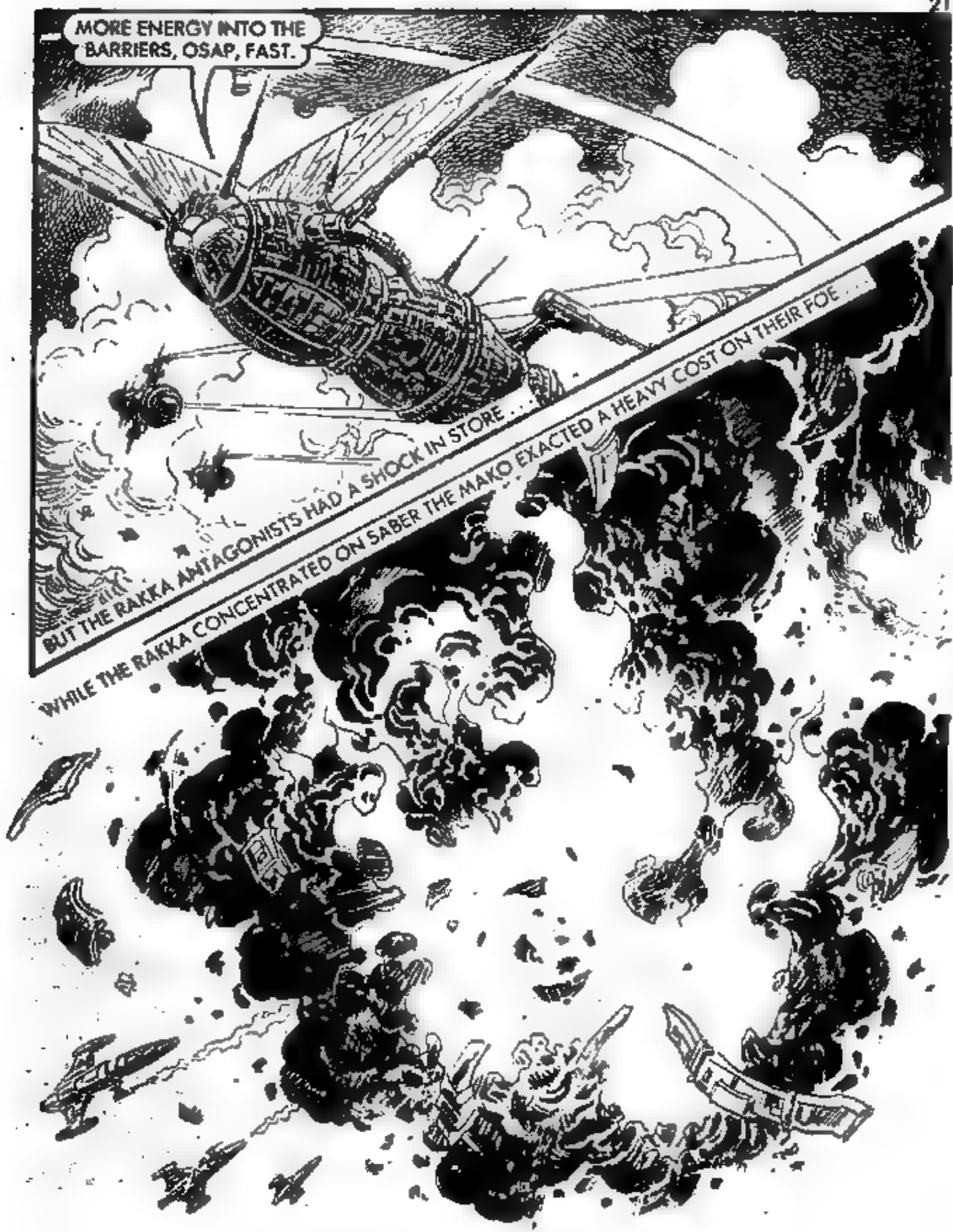
WE ESTIMATE ONLY TWO RAKKA, POSSIBLY
A SMALL RECONNAISSANCE FORCE.

THE MAKO FORCE ROARED INTO THE STRATOSPHERE.



MORE ENERGY INTO THE
BARRIERS, OSAP, FAST.

BUT THE RAKKA ANTAGONISTS HAD A SHOCK IN STORE ...
WHILE THE RAKKA CONCENTRATED ON SABER THE MAKO EXACTED A HEAVY COST ON THEIR FOE ...



SABER LANDED SAFELY —

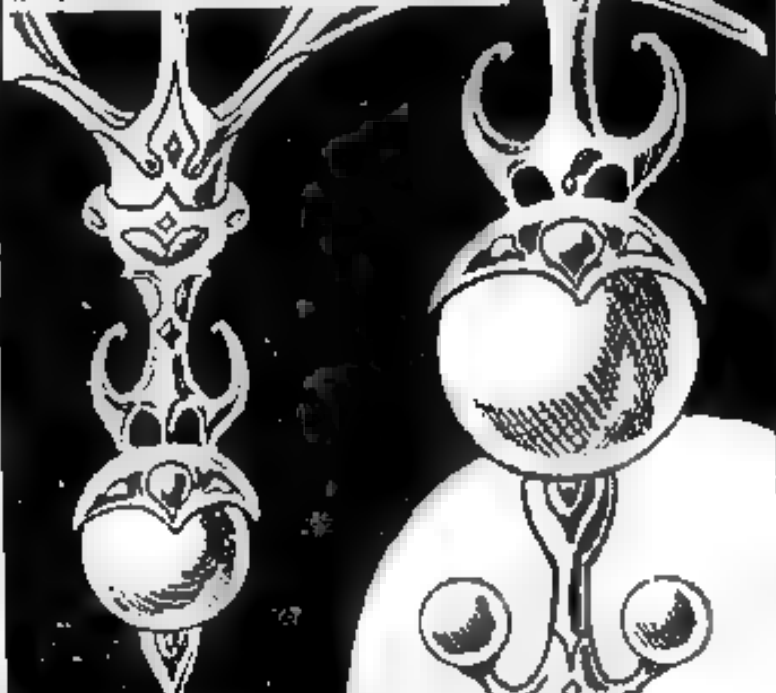


THE LORD OF THE MAKO
WARRIORS WELCOMES YOU. WE
ARE INDEBTED TO GALACTIC
COMMAND.

GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE. THE AIM
OF GALACTIC COMMAND IS PEACE
THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY.



A MAGNIFICENT FEAST AWAITED AGENT SABER
IN THE ROYAL HALL OF MAKO —



COME, WE MUST EAT, THERE IS
MUCH TO DISCUSS. WHILST YOU
ARE OUR GUESTS, MY HOUSE IS
YOUR HOUSE.



THE FEAST LASTED MANY HOURS —



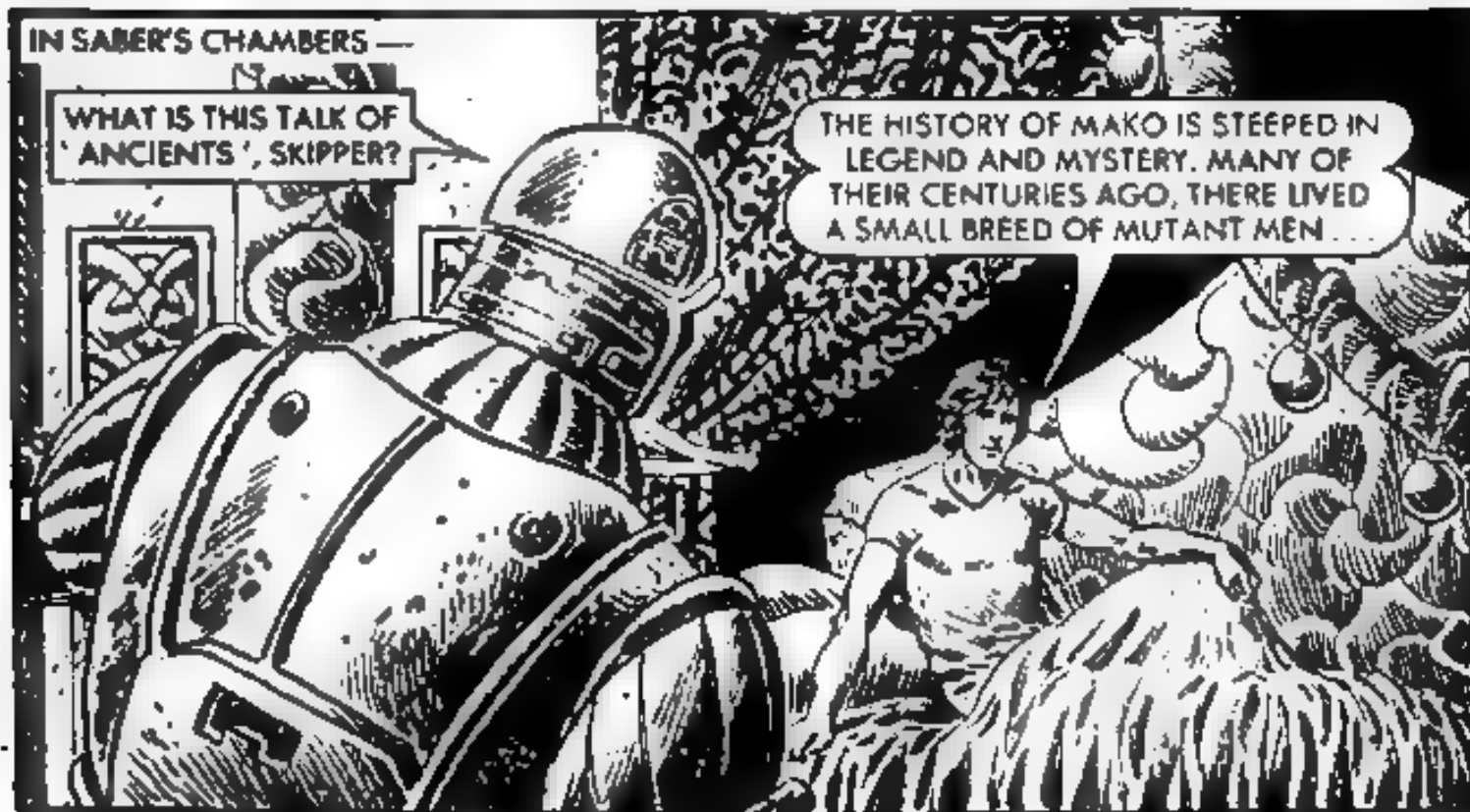
ENOUGH! WE WILL TALK MORE LATER.
NOW YOU MUST SLEEP AND TOMORROW
WE SHALL HUNT TOGETHER, THE SPIRITS OF
THE ANCIENTS ARE PLEASED BY OUR
HUNTING AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

THE LORD OF THE MAKO WARRIORS
TREATS HIS GUESTS WELL, WE THANK YOU.

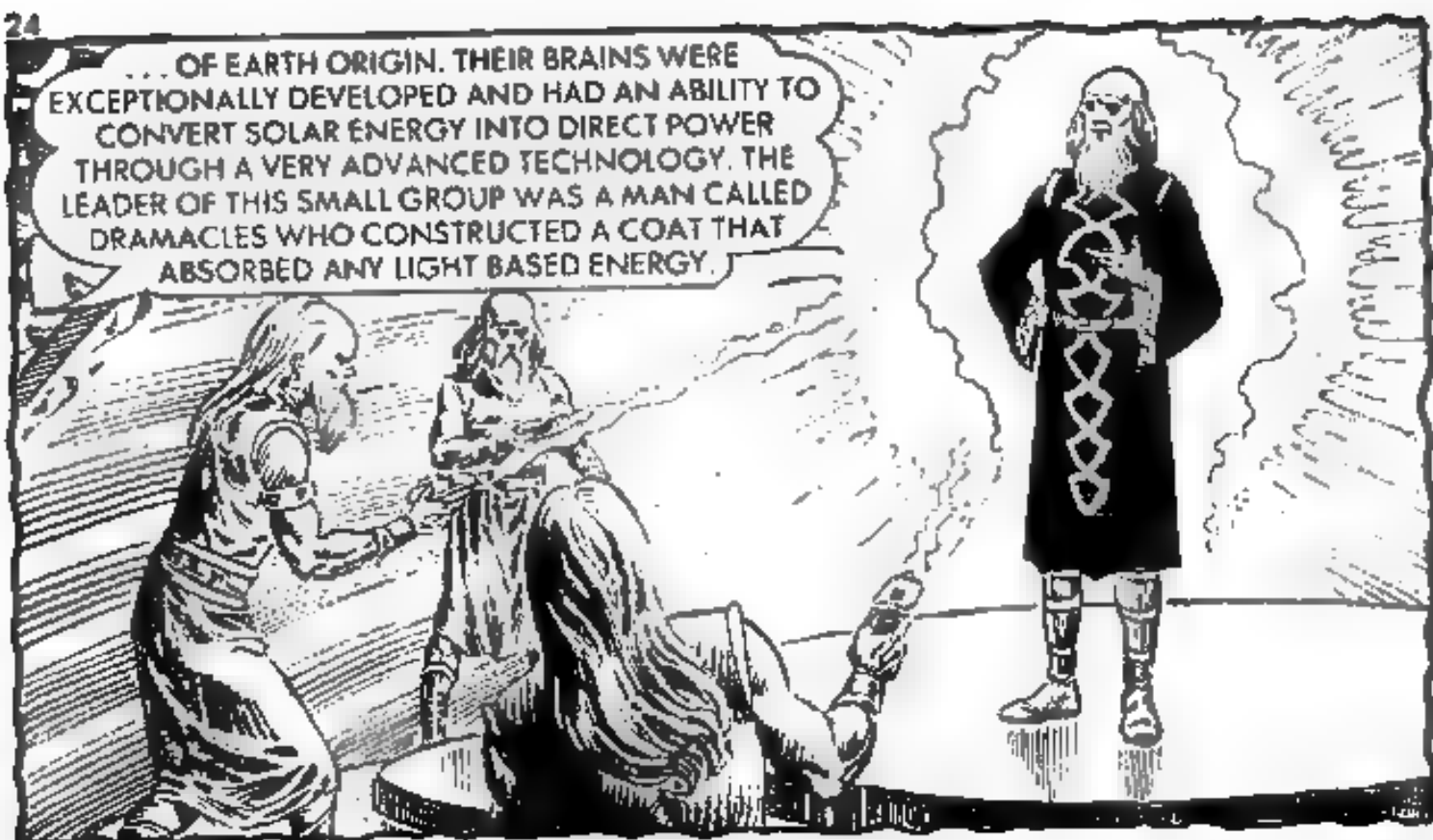
IN SABER'S CHAMBERS —

WHAT IS THIS TALK OF
'ANCIENTS', SKIPPER?

THE HISTORY OF MAKO IS STEEPED IN
LEGEND AND MYSTERY. MANY OF
THEIR CENTURIES AGO, THERE LIVED
A SMALL BREED OF MUTANT MEN...



... OF EARTH ORIGIN. THEIR BRAINS WERE EXCEPTIONALLY DEVELOPED AND HAD AN ABILITY TO CONVERT SOLAR ENERGY INTO DIRECT POWER THROUGH A VERY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. THE LEADER OF THIS SMALL GROUP WAS A MAN CALLED DRAMACLES WHO CONSTRUCTED A COAT THAT ABSORBED ANY LIGHT BASED ENERGY.

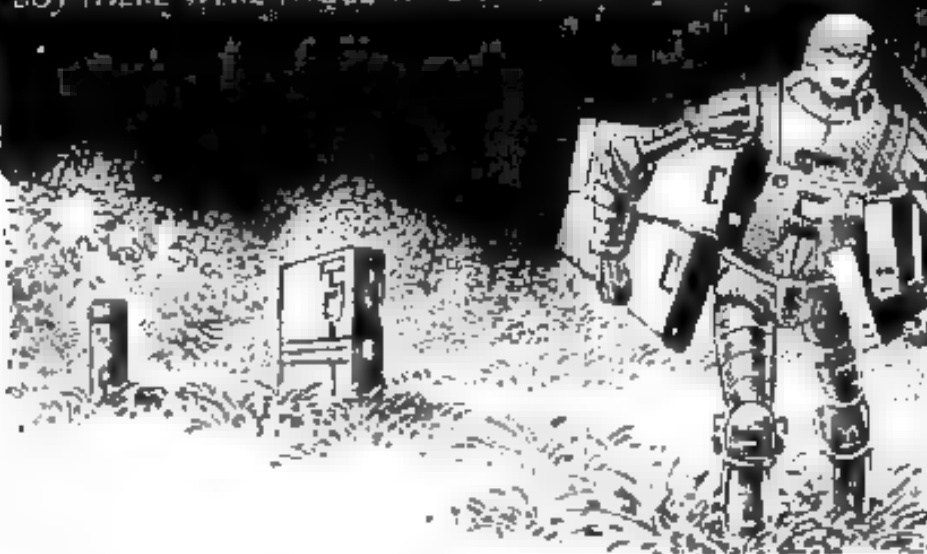


WHEN MOST PEOPLE ON MAKO WERE ASLEEP —

THIS INFILTRATION SQUAD SHALL DESTROY MAKO. IT WILL ■ AS THOUGH IT HAD NEVER EXISTED. ALL SHALL PERISH BEFORE THE NOBLE RAKKA.



BUT THERE WERE THOSE WHO DIDN'T NEED ANY SLEEP.



INTERESTING CIRCUITS ON THESE ONATRON VERTICAL-THRUST BLASTERS. IF ANYTHING METAL PASSES ABOVE THEM, WITHIN A RANGE OF FORTY TRONICS, THEY WILL BLAST A HOLE THROUGH IT. BETTER WATCH OUT ONCE THEY'VE BEEN PRIMED. MY MEMORY CIRCUITS TELL ME I'M MADE OF METAL!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

WHAT ARE THOSE?

A SIMPLE PRECAUTION, LORD SKOLO, A SINGLE ONATRON THRUST WILL CHOP THROUGH A RAKKA VESSEL.

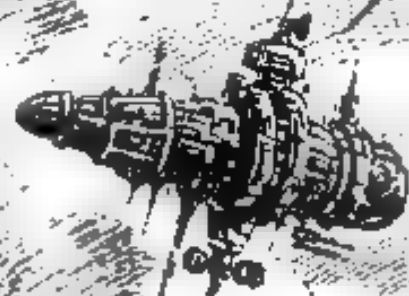


WHY I SHOULD SIT ON THIS
CUMBERSOME CREATURE WHEN I AM ABLE
TO WALK IS GIVING MY COMPUTER

FEEDBACK!!!

WAIT! HOLD YOUR FIRE!

THE INFILTRATION SQUAD SWEEP IN



I SEE SKOLO TAHKUS AND AN ALIEN.
OUR LEADER WOULD BE GREATLY
PLEASED IF WE COULD CAPTURE OR
KILL THESE UGLY SPECIMENS. ALERT
THE SQUADRON, FAN OUT AND SLIP
IN LOW OVER THE CITY.



AN ONATRON BEAM EXPLODED INTO LIFE —

TAKE COVER! BACK TO BASE AS
FAST AS YOU CAN. OSAP, STAND BY.



ONLY ONE OF THE RAKKA FORCE MANAGED TO SLIP THROUGH THE DEFENCES . . .



... BUT THEY HADN'T CONSIDERED OSAP WITH HIS FINGERTIP PHASERBEAM . . .



THE PHASERBEAM ENCIRCLED THE CRAFT IN A BALL OF FLAME —



NO DAMAGE, OSAP, JUST A FEW
SINGE MARKS. YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT.



THE EXPLODING RAKKA CRAFT HAD
EXPOSED AN UNDERGROUND
CHAMBER —

OVER HERE! I THINK
WE'VE GOT SOMETHING.



NEITHER SABER NOR OSAP WERE ABLE TO OPEN THE STRANGE OBJECT.

WAIT, IT IS WRITTEN...



... THAT THE MODULE WILL ONLY FALL OPEN TO THE LORD OF THE MAKO WARRIORS.



THE EGG-SHAPED CONTAINER SLID OPEN —



IT IS THE COAT.

INSIDE WAS A DOCUMENT —

MAKO
SABER
DOCUMENT

THE ANCIENTS FORESAW THE
FLIGHT OF MAKO. ANOTHER
COAT WAS MADE TO COVER
THIS EVENTUALLY. WEAR IT
WELL, STRANGER.

SABER DONNED THE COAT —

IT'S WEIGHTLESS, I CAN SEE AND
FEEL IT, BUT IT WEIGHS NOTHING.

TOGETHER WE SHALL DEFEAT THE
EVIL PLANS OF THE RAKKA.

THEY SET OUT TO TRACK DOWN THE RAKKA BASE ON MAKO —

YOUR MACHINE IS NOT
JOINING US THIS TIME?

NO SKOLO, HE HAS ALMOST COMPLETED
THE NETWORK OF PROTECTORS. DON'T
WORRY I HAVE AN ONATRON GUN WITH
ME, JUST IN CASE.

THEY RODE DEEP INTO THE LUSH VEGETATION NAMED THE FOREST OF LOST SOULS —



UNAWARE OF THE EVIL EYES WATCHING HIM, SKOLO RODE INTO A RAKKA AMBUSH —



THREE OF YOU STAY HERE AND FIND THE ALIEN SCUM. DESTROY HIM AND HIS BEAST.

SABER HAD HEARD NOTHING, BUT ...



MIGHT BE NOTHING, BUT I'VE A FEELING SOMETHING'S GONE BADLY WRONG. I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE.

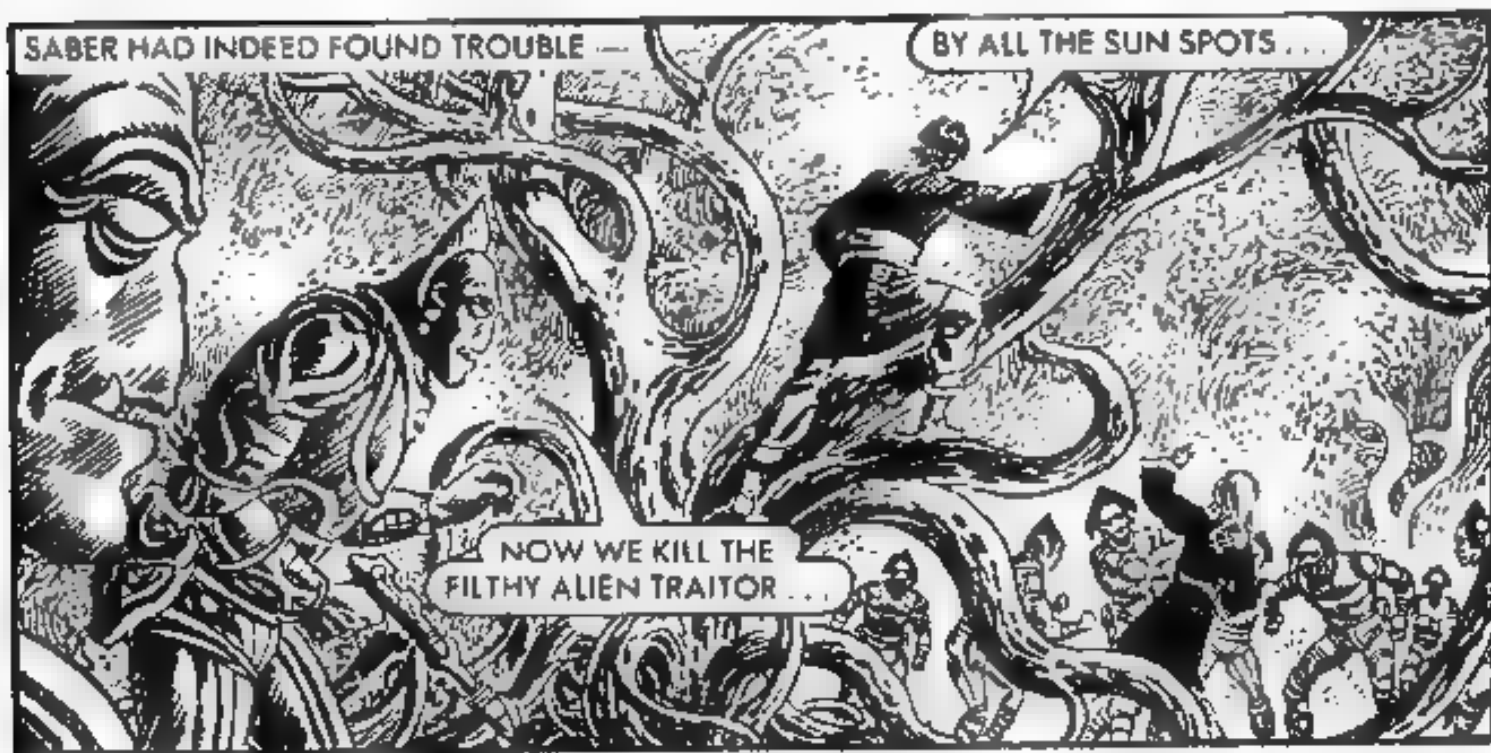
SKIPPER'S IN TROUBLE. MY STATUS
OBSERVATION CIRCUIT TELLS ME HIS HEART AND
PULSE RATE ARE TOO HIGH . . .




SABER HAD INDEED FOUND TROUBLE —

BY ALL THE SUN SPOTS . . .

NOW WE KILL THE
FILTHY ALIEN TRAITOR . . .






A character wearing a helmet and a tactical vest with a bag is standing in a dense jungle. The character is looking towards the right. The background is filled with thick foliage and trees.

THEY HAVE SKOLO, OSAP, BUT THEY
CANNOT HARM HIM WHILST HE
WEARS THE COAT. IF THEY TAKE IT OFF
HIM, THOUGH...

THEN, WE CAN
RESCUE HIM!

A close-up of a character's face, showing a serious expression. The character has dark hair and a beard. The background is dark and indistinct.

BUT HOW? WE'VE HAD NO REPORTS
OF A SHIP LANDING IN THE LAST
FEW DAYS, SO THE RAKKA MUST
BE HERE ALREADY. WE COULD
SEARCH THIS TERRAIN FOR SEVERAL
TRONES AND NEVER FIND THEIR
BASE. WE MUST FOLLOW, USING AN
ION TRACKER.

MEANWHILE, NOT VERY FAR AWAY...

QUICKLY, GET THE COWARD INSIDE. WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO DISCOVER OUR BASE.



SO THIS IS SKOLO TAHKUS, THE COWARDLY MAKO INSECT. HE WILL SUFFER LONG BEFORE WE DESTROY HIM. SOON MAKO WILL BE OURS.

LATER THAT SAME DAY, AS THUNDERBOLT
RELENTLESSLY SEARCHED —

NO LIFE FORMS.

WE'LL HAVE TO GO DOWN
AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND.

ALIEN! ALIEN! SECTOR TWO BEARING
345 AND CLOSING. BARRIERS UP,
GUNS ON STANDBY.

LOCK IN GUNS ON AUTOMATIC,
DO NOT FIRE UNTIL I GIVE THE
COMMAND. WE MUST III CLOSE.
THEY'RE GETTING NERVOUS.

MAXIMUM POWER TO FORCE BARRIERS!
DO NOT RETURN THEIR FIRE.





THE DESTRUCTION WAS TOTAL.



FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING, SKIPPER, BUT MY COMPUTERS CALCULATED THAT WE STOOD LESS CHANCE OF DAMAGE HAD WE OPENED FIRE IMMEDIATELY, WHY DID WE WAIT SO LONG?

I NOTICED THAT ONE OF THE RAKKA WASN'T FIRING AT US!

OBVIOUSLY THEY DIDN'T WANT TO HIT SOMETHING BEHIND US. I PROGRAMMED A COUPLE OF COURSE CHANGES, AND ANOTHER CRAFT STOPPED FIRING. A SIMPLE PIECE OF DIRECTION FINDING...

... IF WE PLOT THE LINES OF
ENEMY AIM, I THINK WE'LL FIND
WHERE THEY'VE GOT SKOLO
TAKKUS TUCKED AWAY ...

RIGHT HERE IF MY CALCULATIONS
ARE CORRECT.

SABER PUT HIS CRAFT DOWN IN A CLEARING —

MAINTAIN HOVER AND ONLY RELEASE
THE SHIELDS ON MY RETURN.

AFFIRMATIVE: GROUND SHIELDS
ACTIVATING IN TEN SECONDS.

MY COMPUTER CALCULATES THAT IT
WOULD BE BETTER IF I STAYED WITH
THE THUNDERBOLT, SKIPPER.

THE RESCUE ATTEMPT HAD NOT COME A MOMENT TOO SOON —



YOU WILL NOTE THE MOUTHS OF THESE BEAUTIFUL CREATURES. IF THIS COWARDLY MAKO VERMIN WILL NOT JOIN US I SHALL RELEASE THEM INTO HIS CAGE. WITH THEIR SPEED AND TINY TEETH THEY WILL ATTACK HIM. HE WILL TAKE MANY TRONES TO DIE. IT WILL BE GOOD TO WATCH. EVEN HIS COAT SHALL NOT SAVE HIM.

CANNOT EXERT ANY MORE PRESSURE, SKIPPER. MY CIRCUITS WILL BURN OUT, I, UH, MIGHT BECOME, UH, DEACTIVATED.



COME ON OSAP, STOP WORRYING ABOUT YOURSELF, THE DOOR'S BEGINNING TO MOVE.

WITH A DEAFENING CRASH, THE CAMOUFLAGED DOOR FELL BACK...

WELCOME MY FRIENDS, IT PLEASES
ME GREATLY TO SEE YOU.

WE WERE JUST PASSING, SKOLO,
THOUGHT WE'D DROP IN...



OSAP, DISCHARGE SOME NEGATIVE IONS
TO WEAKEN THE FIELD. SKOLO WILL BE
ABLE TO STEP OUT.

LATER . . .

I FEAR THEY MUST HAVE A
CONSIDERABLE FORCE ON
OUR PLANET. SOMEONE
WAS RECEIVING ORDERS
FROM A HIGHER AUTHORITY.

FIRST, LORD SKOLO, WE'D
BETTER GET OUT OF HERE.

BACK ON BOARD THUNDERBOLT...

RAISE UP TO TEN TRONICS, OSAP, MAKE SURE THE CO-ORDINATES FOR THE DEFENDERS ARE FED INTO THE COMPUTER. I DON'T WANT TO... BY ALL THE SUN SPOTS, I DON'T BELIEVE IT???

BY THE EIGHT SUNS OF MAKO, THEY ARE RAKKA. THEY MUST HAVE SLIPPED IN THROUGH THE FROZEN POLES OF OUR PLANET.

COMPUTER, AT THEIR CURRENT RATE OF PROGRESS, HOW LONG BEFORE THEY REACH THE CITY?

SEVEN EARTH HOURS AND FORTY-SIX POINT ZERO EIGHT FIVE EARTH MINUTES.

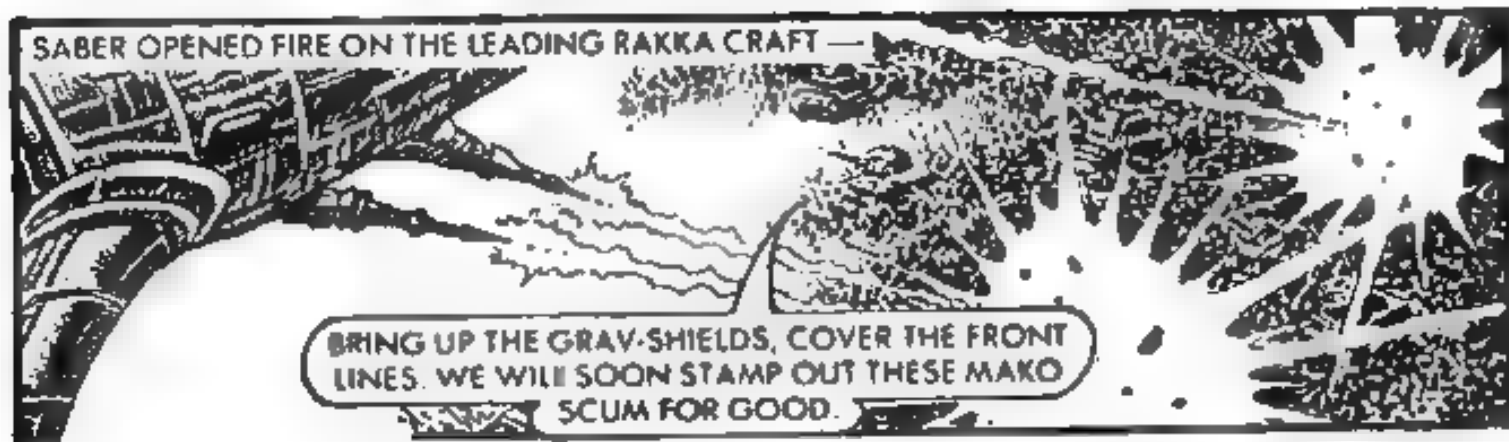
THE THUNDERBOLT SWOOPED TOWARDS THE ONCOMING RAKKA.

PRIORITY MESSAGE TO MAKO H.Q.: RAKKA ARMY
WILL REACH CITY IN TWO SUNS. REPEAT, TWO
SUNS. PREPARE YOURSELVES. LORD SKOLO
TAMKUS ALIVE AND WELL AND IN OUR HANDS.
MESSAGE ENDS. RIGHT, LET'S TAKE A CLOSER
LOOK.



SABER OPENED FIRE ON THE LEADING RAKKA CRAFT —

BRING UP THE GRAV-SHIELDS, COVER THE FRONT
LINES. WE WILL SOON STAMP OUT THESE MAKO
SCUM FOR GOOD.



THE MAKO PILOTS HAD REACTED
TO SABER'S MESSAGE—



THE MAKO SQUADRON BLASTED
INTO THE OUTER ATMOSPHERE.

MAKO WARRIOR TO THUNDERBOLT, CAN
WE MEET — WE MUST SEE OUR
LEADER...

AFFIRMATIVE MAKO WARRIOR, JUST
KEEP COMING, WE HAVE YOU ON VISUAL.

THE PILOTS WERE BEAMED ABOARD THUNDERBOLT FOR THE TRADITIONAL BLESSING —

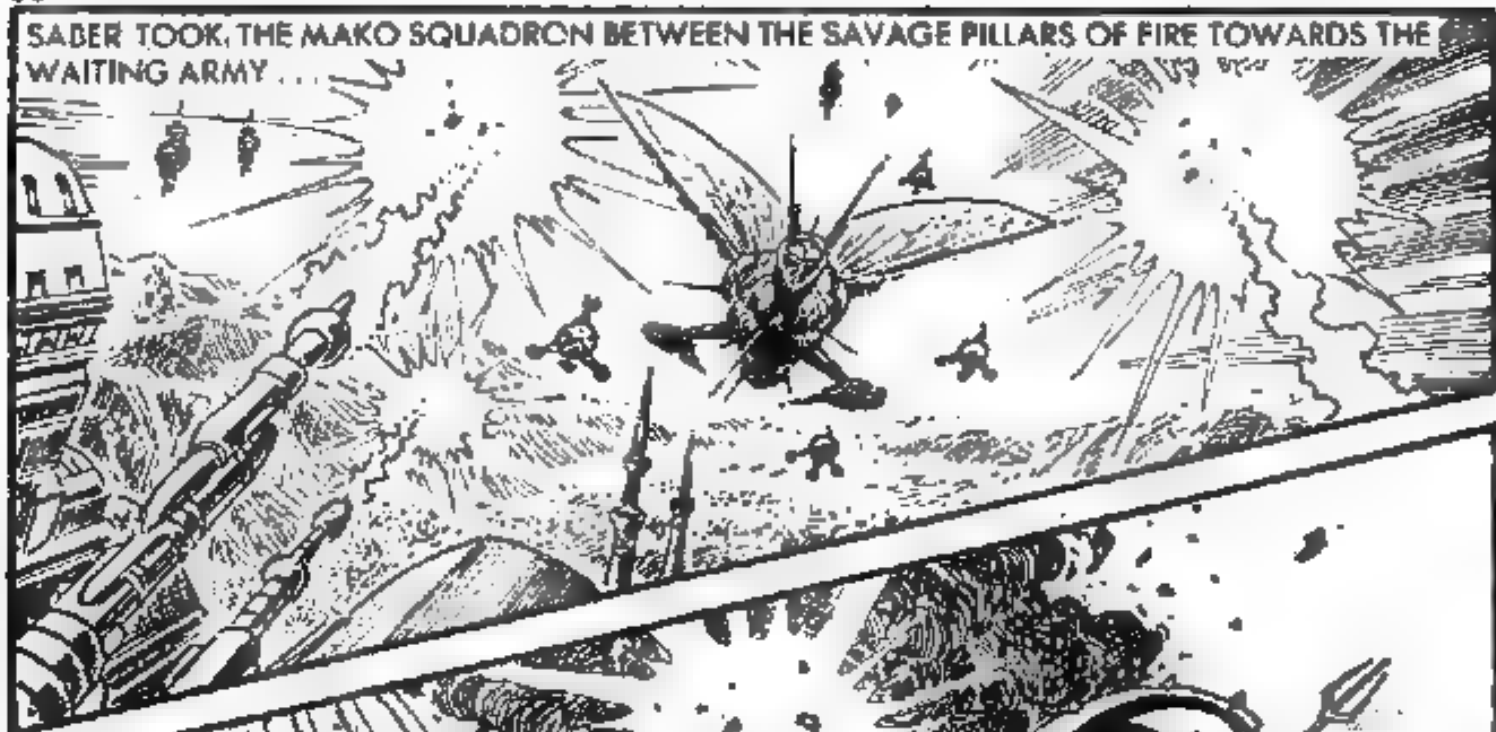
I, SKOLO TAHKUS, BLESS THESE WARRIORS AS
THEY PREPARE TO DEFEND OUR LONG HERITAGE.
HEAR ME ANCIENT SPIRITS, WE FIGHT ONLY TO
DEFEND.

ALIEN, ALIEN, SECTOR NE,
BEARING 124, RANGE 4 TRONICS
AND CLOSING.

BREAK FORMATION MAKO
WARRIORS! LINE UP BEHIND
ME AND FOLLOW ME DOWN!



SABER TOOK THE MAKO SQUADRON BETWEEN THE SAVAGE PILLARS OF FIRE TOWARDS THE WAITING ARMY...



CLEAR NOW, MAKO WARRIORS! SPREAD OUT AND STRIKE WELL.



THE SMALL FLEET HACKED SAVAGE CHANNELS THROUGH THE ONCOMING RAKKA.

WE'D BETTER CHECK WHERE THESE RAKKAS ARE COMING FROM.

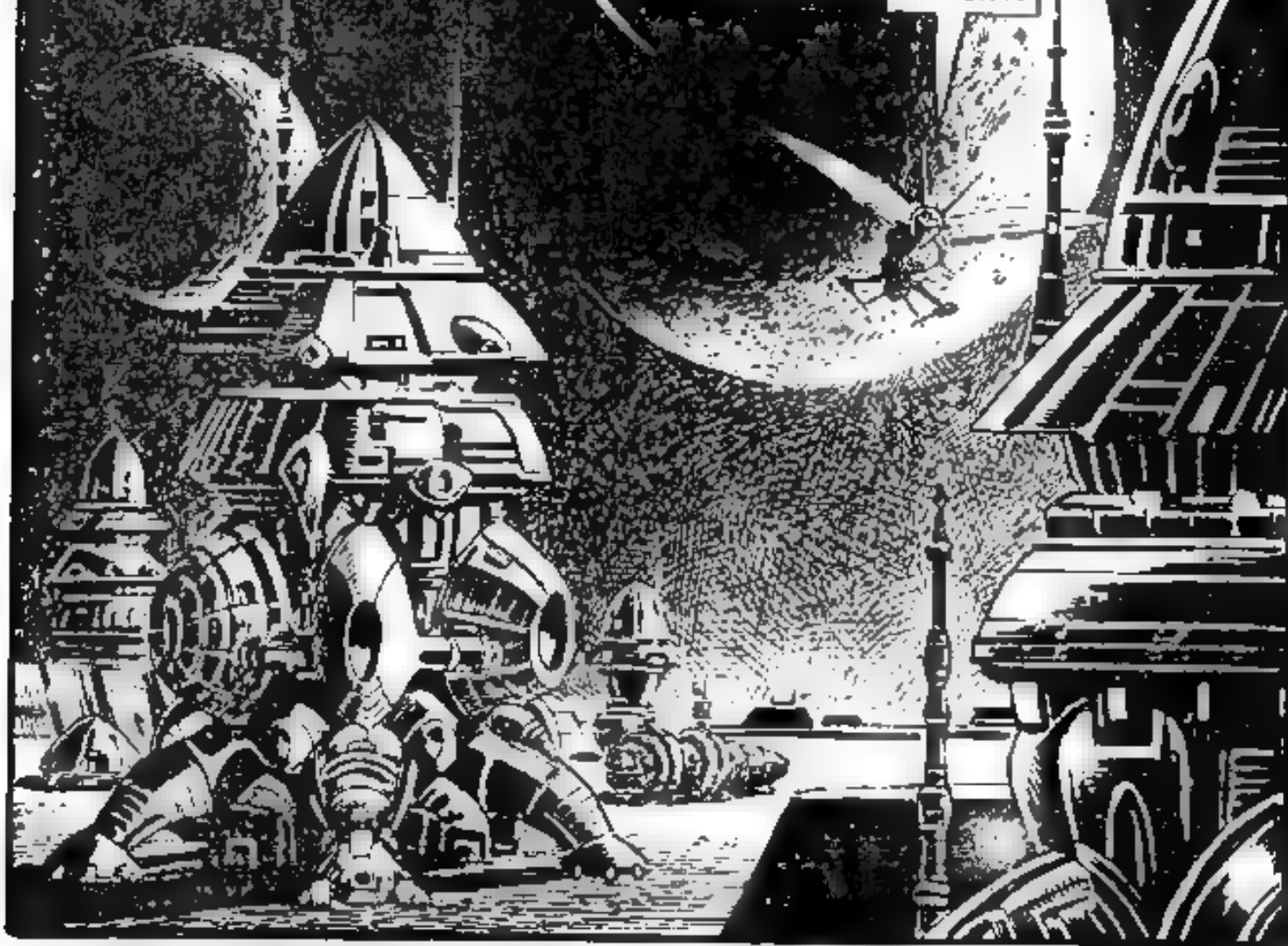


I SUSPECT THE FROZEN NORTH, THE LAND OF DARKNESS. THE ANCIENTS WARNED US OF THE STRANGE CREATURES THAT LIVE THERE. YES, WE MUST GO.

NOT VERY MUCH LATER OVER THE FROZEN WASTES —

THE ONLY STRANGE CREATURES I
CAN SEE, SKOLO, ARE RAKKA!

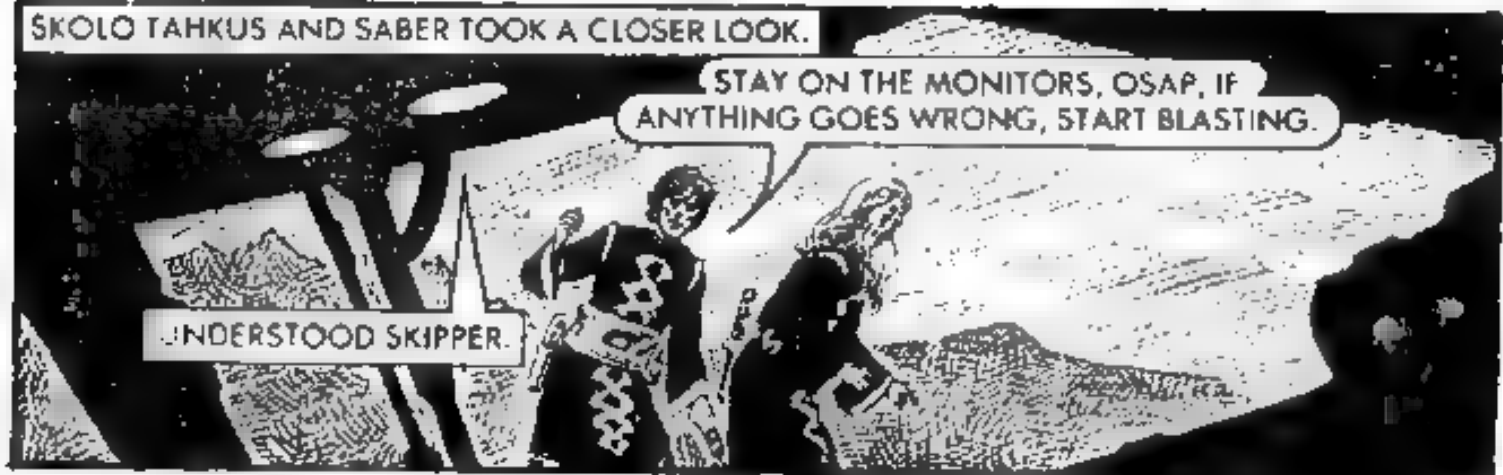
FIVE EARTH HOURS AND SEVENTEEN POINT SIX
FOUR FIVE EARTH MINUTES UNTIL RAKKA REACH
THE CITY.

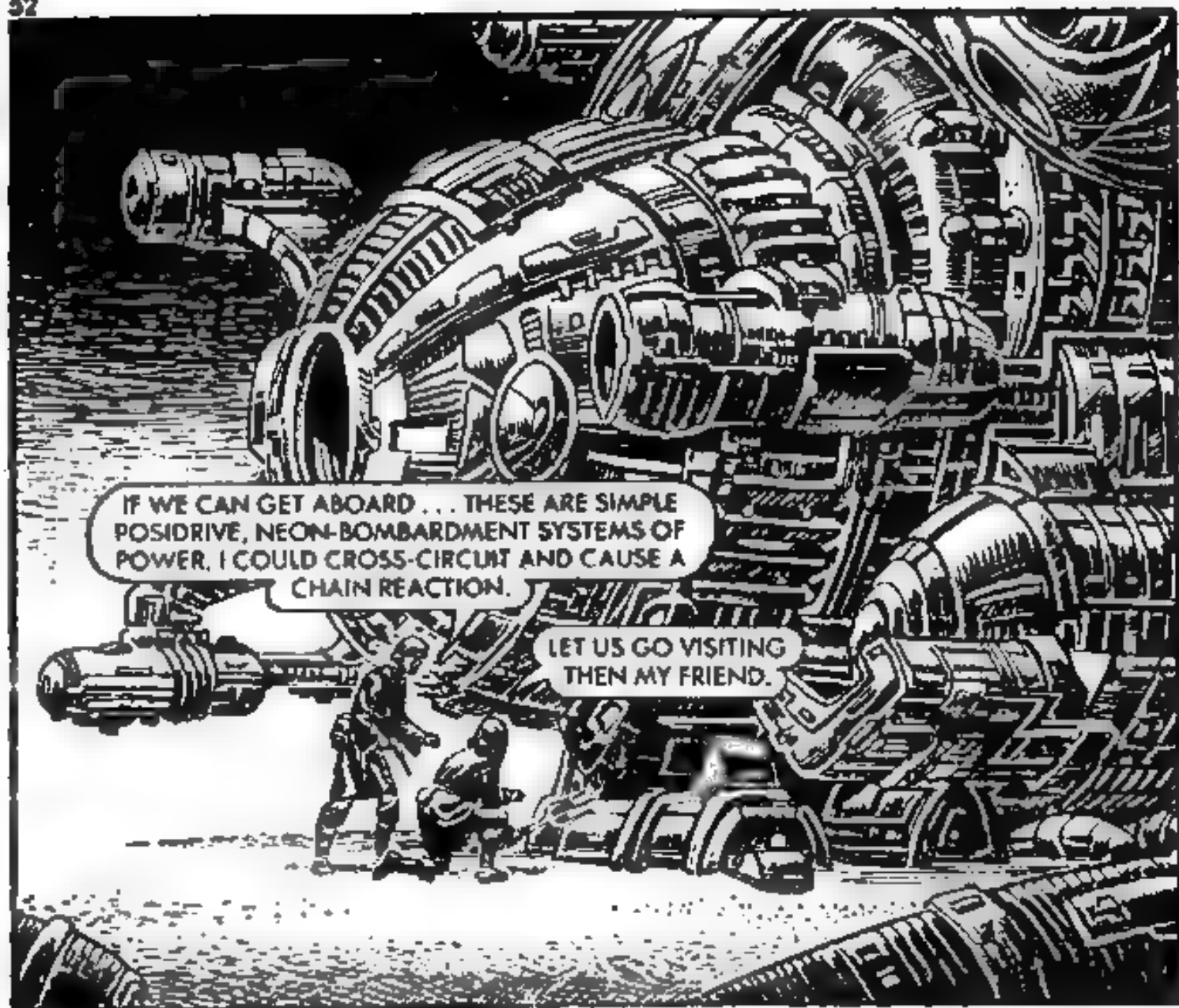


SKOLO TAHKUS AND SABER TOOK A CLOSER LOOK.

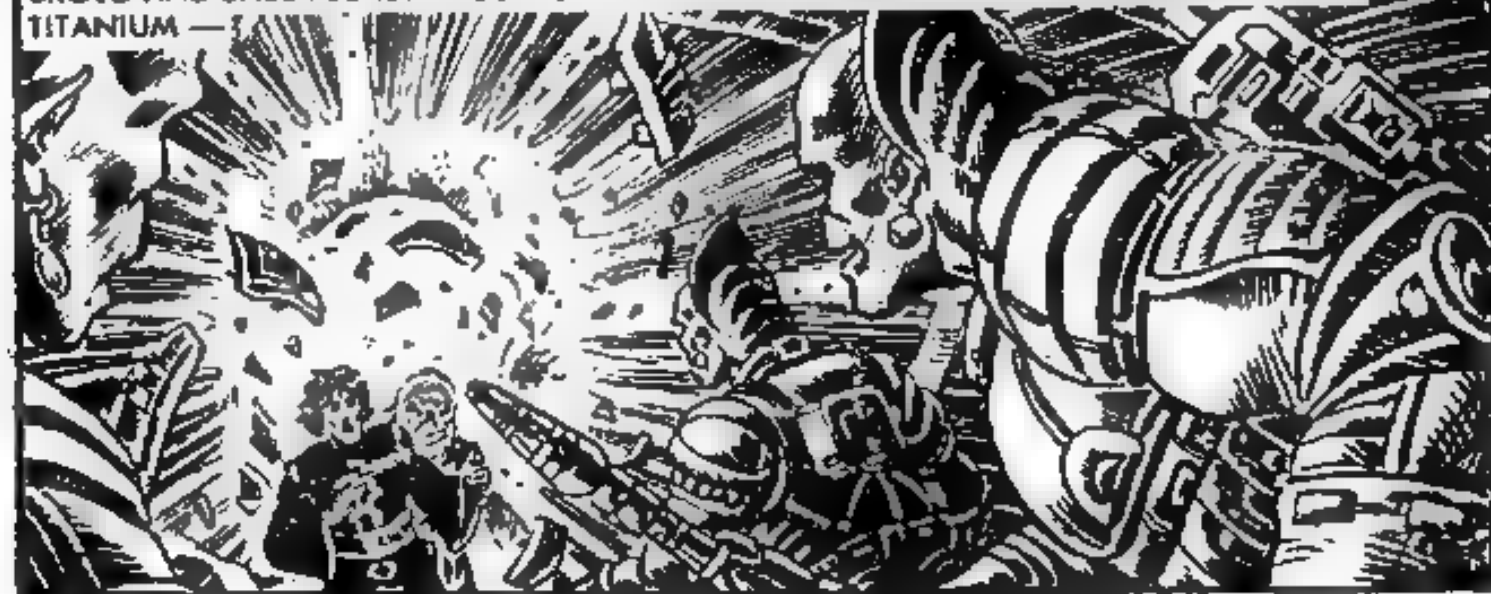
STAY ON THE MONITORS, OSAP, IF
ANYTHING GOES WRONG, START BLASTING.

UNDERSTOOD SKIPPER.





SKOLO AND SABER BURST IN USING A FUSION CONCUSSER THAT SHATTERED TEMPERED TITANIUM —





THIS WAY SKOLO! I HAVE TO GET TO THE BRIDGE. WE CAN SEAL OURSELVES IN THERE.

GO. I'LL FOLLOW YOU MY FRIEND



WELL! THAT SHOULD GIVE ME TIME.





THERE IS STILL THE SMALL MATTER
OF OUR ESCAPE SABER.

I SHALL TAKE CARE OF THAT! OUT
THROUGH THIS OBSERVATION DOME.

WE'RE OUT OSAP. KEEP THEM BUSY. DROP THE GROUND SHIELD, WE'RE COMING IN.

GET US OUT OF HERE, OSAP...

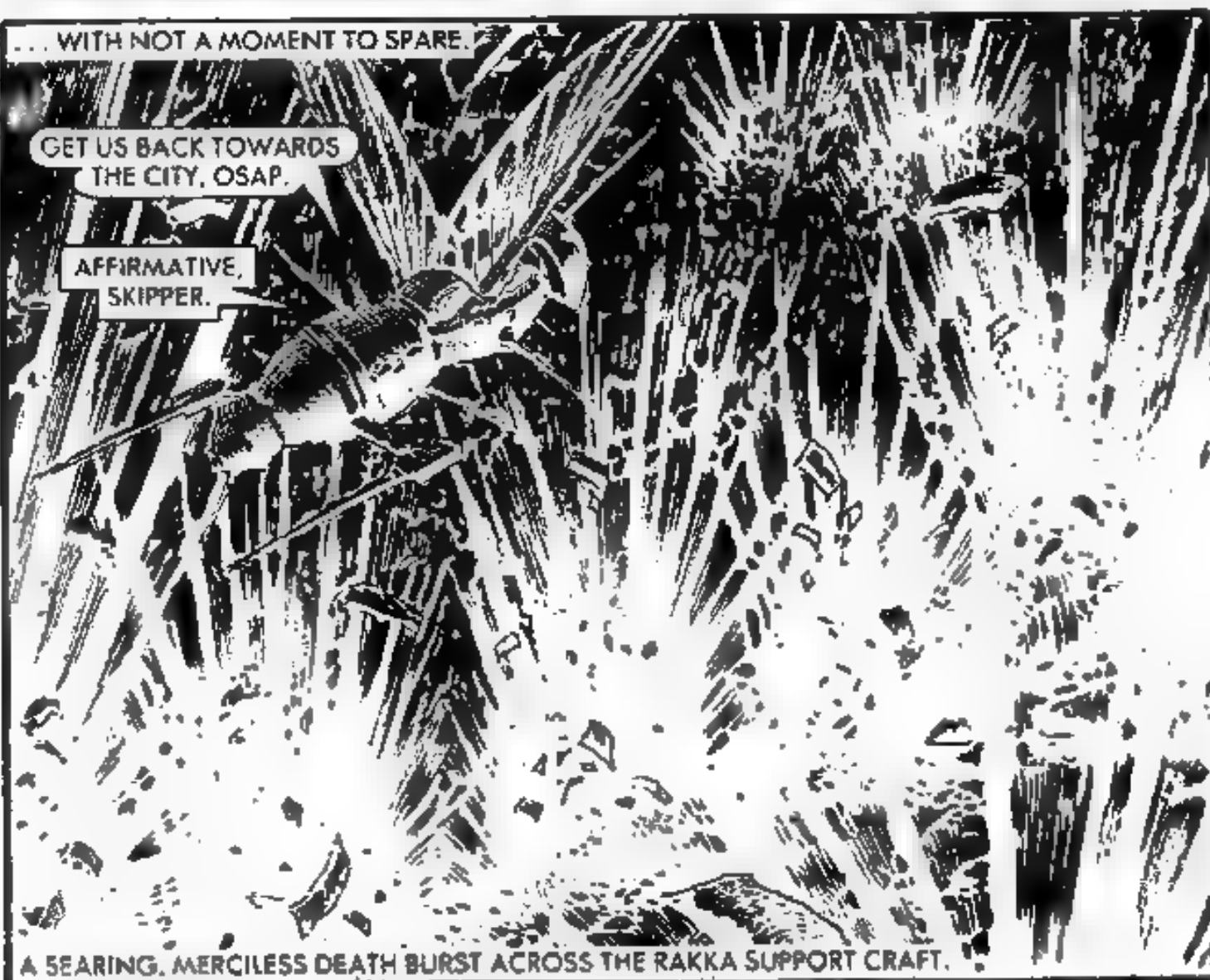


THE THUNDERBOLT LIFTED OFF FROM THE BLEAK AND FROZEN SURFACE...

... WITH NOT A MOMENT TO SPARE.

GET US BACK TOWARDS THE CITY, OSAP.

AFFIRMATIVE, SKIPPER.



A SEARING, MERCILESS DEATH BURST ACROSS THE RAKKA SUPPORT CRAFT.

BACK ON THE PLAINS OF MAKO, THE BATTALION COMMANDERS DREW UP THEIR LINES TO RESIST THE RAKKA —

GREAT PILLARS OF FIRE! LOOK AT THEM! WE MUST BE OUTNUMBERED 100 TO 1.

THEN WE MUST TAKE A 100 WITH EACH OF US TO OUR DEATHS FOR OUR BELOVED CITY.



SEE HOW THE WEAKLINGS FLEE BEFORE
US. SOON THEY SHALL ALL PERISH.



LOOK DOWN THERE, LORD SKOLO! WE CAN NEVER DEFEAT SUCH AN ARMY BY NORMAL MEANS! THEY WILL OVER-RUN THE CITY IN NO TIME. I HAVE ANOTHER PLAN.

SABER LANDED BY ONE OF MAKO'S WATERHOLES. THUNDERBOLT'S ATOMIC NUCLEUS CONDENSER COMPRESSED GALLONS OF WATER INTO TINY GRANULES, AN AGE OLD SYSTEM OF RAIN-MAKING --

I HOPE THIS WILL WORK, MY FRIEND.

IF IT DOESN'T WE ARE IN BIG TROUBLE ...

STAND BY OSAP, RELEASE ONLY A BIT AT A TIME, I'LL TELL YOU WHEN ...

UNDERSTOOD, SKIPPER.



SABER QUICKLY BLASTED OFF —

NOW.

HUGE CLOUDS OF WATER AND VAPOUR LASHED DOWN ON THE RAKKA ARMY AS THE AQUASEEDS EXPLODED INTO THEIR ORIGINAL FORM...



YOU HAVE JUST BEEN SPRAYED WITH HYDRO-NEUTRALISER, YOUR WEAPONS ARE NOW USELESS AGAINST US. YOU WILL SURRENDER WHILST YOU HAVE THE CHANCE.



IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, LAND YOUR
CRAFT AND WALK AMONG US, OR DO
YOU FEAR FOR YOUR SAFETY, WOMEN
OR MAKO??

THUNDERBOLT DESCENDED
THEY'VE CALLED OUR BLUFF...



... BUT THEY DON'T KNOW
ABOUT THE COATS.

NOW DIE, FOOLS...?



NOW MEN OF RAKKA, DO YOU WISH
ME TO ORDER MY VESSEL TO OPEN FIRE?

UNAWARE THAT SABER'S HYDRO-NEUTRALISER WAS TOTAL NONSENSE AND THAT IT WAS ONLY THE COATS THAT PREVENTED SKOLO AND SABER FROM BEING INCINERATED, THE RAKKA LEADER CAPITULATED —





... SHOULD YOU EVER
CHOOSE TO RISE AGAINST
US, AGAIN, YOU WILL
ALL BE DESTROYED. THAT
IS ALL.




THE ANCIENTS WILL BE GREATLY
PLEASED MY FRIEND. WE HAVE
ACHIEVED VICTORY WITH LITTLE
LOSS OF LIFE. THIS IS A PROUD
MOMENT.



REST, MY FRIEND, TONIGHT THERE WILL
BE GREAT FEASTING, AND YOU SHALL BE
MY GUEST OF HONOUR.

I AM SORRY, SKOLO, BUT I HAVE TO SAY
GOODBYE . . . MY TASK HERE IS FINISHED.

BUT, HIGH ABOVE MAKO —



THERE HE IS... BLAST DOWN
AND DESTROY HIS SHIP.

AS THUNDERBOLT DEPARTED —

ALIEN! ALIEN! BOW 0120...

BLAST OFF!



THUNDERBOLT EASILY AVOIDED THE MISSILE —



FIRED—VESSEL RUPTURED! STATUS
REPORT OSAP?

ENEMY VESSEL DESTROYED—
LIFEFORMS ELIMINATED.

THUNDERBOLT EDGED INTO THE ETHER CURRENTS OF SPACE
TO RIDE THE ION WAVES IN THE CONSTANT BATTLE AGAINST THE EVIL AND VIOLENT.

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OTHER ACTION-PACKED
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THE PLANET OF PRISMS
HOUSED THE HOME OF A
PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN
RACE WHO SOUGHT
TO DOMINATE THE
UNIVERSE

**THE
CRYSTAL
KILLERS**

**NOW
ON
SALE**



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Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Shatalov, 42, was pilot of Soyuz 4, launched on January 14, 1969. The mission lasted 2 days, 23 hours, 14 mins, and was memorable for achieving the first transfer of cosmonauts in space when it docked with Soyuz 5, launched some hours later.

Shatalov also flew on Soyuz 8 on October 13, 1968, on a mission lasting 4 days and 22 hours, 41 mins, and on Soyuz 10, launched April 23, 1971. This mission flew for 1 day, 23 hours, 45 mins. Shatalov now heads the Soviet manned space programme.